

Nashville Tenn
October 6th 1884

Dear Dr Gray

18 years ago - July 14. 67 I collected on the western
slope of the Cumberland Mountains at Corvoss
Franklin Co Tenn, what I thought to be a *Siphium*,
species - had no sources to find. I parted with
all my specimens but one, giving the others to
Coxey, Chickering and Ward.

I can not make it agree with any of the species
in your new volume, and do believe it is
an undescribed species.

I had labelled it in my herbarium *Siphium*
brachiatum on account of the decussate disposition
of the peduncles. *substantum* would also
be a good name for it, but the outline of the leaves
may be variable.

However I fear the old name "*Siphium*
philosophicum" and prefer to deposit
it with you, instead of rushing with it into
a journal.

I give you my description of the species new that
the notice of the object should not be lost, if
the package should per accidens
reach your hands. Truly, a
1880

Silphium brachiatum

Stem 3-5 feet high, square, or a bit angulose, pubescent below, nearly naked and slender above. Leaves opposite smooth on the lower surface with little slightly scabrous on the veins, roughened and moderately scabrous above, glaucous green, elongated deltoid in outline, gradually attenuate from a dilated, subcordate or suborbiculate base or truncate base, lower short petioled with slight winged and veinate petioles, ^{6-10 inches long} upper sessile & cordate base 1-2 inches long

Margin of leaves irregularly serrately dentate or serrate and hispidulous ciliolate.

Heads solitary, slender peduncled, involucre of about 15-16 foliaceous ovate scales $3/4$ inch long, subquarrous rays 8, $3/4$ inch long, receptacle about $1/2$ inch high.

Stemia nearly orbicular narrowly winged with a shallow depression in width at summit.

Flower July on mountain limestone.

I collected from the rocky bed (sandstone) of a rapid insensate stream on Lookout Mountain where I also collected *Dicentra sessilifolia* in flower a small, submerged, small, lichen-like or moss-like plant, which I then and now took for a *Podostemon*. It had not yet reached the flowering state. I know the *Podostemon* an abrotanoides, which grows east from the *Cucullaria* mountains in all streams of the Alleghenies, and its flowers already about ^{the same} time. It is also of a much more robust growth. I do not know whether I ever more will have a chance to revisit the place to collect the plant later in the season, and place it therefore in your hands in the best form, I have it.

You will also find a young *Veronica*? collected 30 August 1883 at Bransville West Tennessee. In its present state I can not make it out, but you perhaps know it, anyhow.

I am very anxious to know the fact about these plants, as I am at work on a list of plants collected by me in Tennessee.

I have also a couple of ugly askers, which I fear you are not very anxious to see, but I will send them your kindest regards as a souvenir.

Yours very respectfully

J. G. Smith